The Southern PATRIOT

Vol. 16. No. 2 Published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. February, 1958

Youth Actions Brighten South

The brightest news in the South in recent weeks has been in the actions of students—both high school and college.

White members of the National Student Association representing about 30 schools in North Carolina and Virginia urged that Dorothy Counts, first Negro student to enroll at Charlotte, N. C.'s all-white high school, be asked to return. Miss Counts withdrew last fall after persistent abuse and humiliation from some of the school's students.

Earlier, Dr. Frank P. Graham, former president of the University of North Carolina, had addressed the student body at the Charlotte high school and asked the students to invite Miss Counts back.

"What we do in Charlotte," Dr. Graham said, "is of vast importance to the free world." Whereupon the student body rose spontaneously and cheered the speaker in a demonstration such as is rarely seen in a high school auditorium.

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Delegates to the Arkansas Bapitist Student Union convention voted to adopt a strong statement supporting integration. Of the 360 representatives present, only one voted against the statement.

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In Georgetown, Ky., students and faculty at Georgetown College led a successful effort to get the town's white Baptist church to admit two Nigerian students to membership.

The Nigerians are students at the col-

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To Meet the Challenge

SCEF Increases Budget $15,685

The board of the Southern Conference Educational Fund has voted a $15,685 increase in its annual budget for 1958. The purpose of the increase is to enable the organization to expand its program to meet the present challenge in the South.

The total budget for the new year is $41,185. This compares with $25,500.00 spent in 1957.

SCEF President Aubrey Williams said the organization hopes and believes that Fund supporters all over the country will help meet this budget by increasing their own contributions accordingly where possible and by helping SCEF publicize its program and reach new contributors.

"There has never been a time when the work of SCEF was more important than it is now," Williams said. "We are one of the few organizations in the South trying to organize white support for desegregation. The task is urgent, and what we will be able to do will depend in great part on the funds we have available.

"This is not something we can sit and think about doing a few years from now. If it is to be done at all, it must be done now."

The increase in the budget is primarily to pay for an expanded staff, an increased amount of publications and educational material, and additional travel for staff members. It was pointed out that the increased travel budget is of particular importance, since the job of organizing interracial support for desegregation in the South at this time depends mainly on personal contact.

This is the way the money raised by SCEF in 1958 will be spent:

Administrative Expense:	
Executive Director's Salary	$ 7,500
Field Secretaries' Salary	6,000
Travel	6,400
Auditor	350
	$20,250
Office Expense:	
Office Assistance (2)	$ 5,200
Rent	960
Utilities	125
Office Supplies & Printing	1,000
Telephone & Telegraph	400
Lettershop Services	1,000
Postage & Express	600
Bank Charges	25
Books & Periodicals	50
Repairs to Office Equipment	25
Social Security Tax	425
Field Sec.s' Office Expense	1,000
Miscellaneous	125
	$10,935
Publications & Special Projects:	
Southern Patriot	$ 2,000
Other	8,000
	$10,000
TOTAL	$41,185

A Push Needed

As Congress reconvened, several civil rights bills were thrown into the hopper—including one to restore Part 3 which was struck out of the bill passed last year and which would have authorized federal intervention to sustain civil rights in areas other than voting.

But with President Eisenhower and the leaders of both parties silent on the subject, it was evident that there would be no top-level push for more civil rights legislation this year. Strong pressure from the people is needed if there is to be any action.

It's Democracy They Really Fear In Tuskegee

(By Staff Correspondent)

Tuskegee, Ala.—The politicians who run this city and Macon County are afraid that Negro voters will join liberal whites in bringing a new deal to this area.

This is the real fear that underlies the removal of 3,000 Negro citizens from the city of Tuskegee and the passage of a state law to permit abolition of the county.

This fear results from an experience a few years back, when Negro voters helped oust a brutal sheriff who was opposed by a group of white liberals.

Since then, restrictions on democracy have not only been applied to the Negro majority (there are 28,000 Negroes and 4,700 whites in the county). It has got to the point where the politicians in power have even been able to discourage opposition in the primaries.

After the scare over the sheriff, an obscure plantation owner suddenly became a person of account. He is Sam Engelhardt, who was sent to the state legislature as a representative in 1954 with the support of the five or six families who control Macon County.

He organized the White Citizens Council, became its executive secretary, and was elevated to the state senate. There

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Red Label Called "Demagoguery"

Four prominent Americans have denounced the efforts of Governor Marvin Griffin of Georgia to equate the Southern integration movement with communism.

The four are Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary, Catholic Educator Monsignor John O'Grady, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and Atttorney Lloyd K. Garrison.

They issued a statement in defense of Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., and said the Georgia governor "has adopted the dangerous technique of charging all southern integration leaders with being communist inspired."

The reference was to an elaborate brochure issued by the Georgia Education Commission, of which Governor Griffin is chairman, and now being circulated all over the country. The brochure attacks a seminar on integration held at Highlander last Labor Day weekend to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary. **(Southern Patriot, October, 1957.)**

The seminar brought together Negro and white leaders in the integration movement from all over the South. Aubrey Williams, SCEF president, was one of the main speakers.

The statement in support of Highlander and the seminar called the brochure "irresponsible demagoguery" and said it was "obviously designed to intensify the difficulties confronting decent Southerners who might otherwise give leadership in the adjustment necessary for the desegregation which is inevitable."

Dallas Citizens Active

A group of SCEF friends in Dallas has been meeting regularly in an effort to work out ways of contributing to the community situation in that city, which is now under court order to desegregate its schools.

SCEF Executive Director James A. Dombrowski attended the initial meetings of about 25 citizens who were called together by SCEF Board Members W. E. Hogan and Dr. Paul F. Boller, Jr., and Advisory Committee Member Ruby Berkley. Plans were made to continue the meetings on a regular basis.

It's Democracy the Politicians Really Fear in Macon County, Ala.

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he obtained passage of the bills affecting Tuskegee and Macon County.

One bill, which became law last July 18, gerrymandered the city to exclude all but 10 Negro voters. Among those pushed outside were the 2,000 students and 500 staff members at Tuskegee Institute and the 1,500 staff members—mostly Negroes—at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

It was after this that Macon County Negroes quit buying at Tuskegee stores and launched a Crusade for Citizenship. The Tuskegee Civic Association began holding weekly mass meetings.

The T. C. A. had been founded in 1935 to provide leadership and spokesmen for Negroes in dealing with public officials in the town and county. It had also carried on a campaign which resulted in the registration of 1,100 Negro voters by 1956.

Although a few white families seem to be largely responsible for the anti-Negro legislation, others in the community have kept completely silent—apparently through fear or economic pressure.

None of the white merchants made any effort to block passage of the bills or to stop the cutting up of the city, despite pleas by some of their Negro customers. Negroes who had received favors from merchants went and asked their white friends what they were going to do about the gerrymandering. Their friends replied: "Not a damned thing."

Merchants in Tuskegee may have picked up a little business over the Christmas holidays, but not much. Negroes continue to drive 20 to 40 miles to make purchases. "Some people were so shocked at being thrown out of the city that they don't expect to go back even after the crusade is over," said Charles G. Gomillion of Tuskegee Institute and president of T.C.A.

The T.C.A. has been patient and persistent in efforts to reach an amicable settlement with public officials.

Mr. Gomillion said letters have been written to city officials—no reply. The City Council was presented with a petition signed by 700 persons asking return to the city. There was not even an acknowledgement, although the newspapers reported the plea was turned down.

"We have made repeated efforts to confer with public officials and leading citizens, including ministers," Gomillion declared. "They have not responded. White ministers as a group will not meet with Negro ministers. Neither will they invite Negro ministers to meet with them."

As 1958 began, the T.C.A. executive committee again voted to ask public officials for a conference. Negro ministers were requested to write to white ministers and seek a meeting.

Despite the stalemate, Gomillion feels there have already been gains as a result of the crusade. He says Macon County Negroes have more self-respect as a result of their united stand. "Some people are out of debt for the first time and fewer are going into debt," he reported. "I know there are more people proud of themselves."

Gomillion says he hopes there will soon be a solution so the citizens of Macon County, Negro and white, can really do something constructive and creative.

The white politicians say they are afraid the Negroes will try to take over the government and will try to retaliate for the way they have been treated. But Gomillion and other Negro leaders say this is not the case; they want to work with the white people to make a better community for everybody.

In a speech at Atlanta in 1941, SCEF board member Gomillion declared: "So much time and energy are spent in an effort to maintain a decadent status quo that little time is left for more creative living . . . By restricting the opportunities of Negroes to discover and develop their talents, and by forcing them to utilize both time and energy in overcoming prejudicial obstacles, the South is probably depriving itself of some cultural objects which might enrich it."

He still feels the same way today.

Miss Peggy Ann Mitchell, daughter of the secretary of the T.C.A. and herself a leader in the T.C.A. Youth Group, has this to say about the political aspirations of Tuskegee Negroes:

"We must prepare ourselves to become members of the board of registrars, members of the board of education, members of the fire department, clerical workers in the courthouse, and members of the welfare departent. Young men and women who graduate from medical school and plan to reside in this area must become members of the Macon County Medical Society, for no one can be a staff member at the Macon County Hospital without being a member of that society."

The T.C.A. tries to finance its operations through contributions from people in Macon County, but anyone wishing to make a financial contribution can send it to Charles G. Gomillion at P.O. Box 31, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Southern News Round-Up

School Suits Filed In Major Cities

Parents in both Birmingham and Atlanta have filed suit asking immediate desegregation of the schools in these two major southern cities.

One of the plaintiffs in the Birmingham action is the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who was badly beaten by a mob when he tried to enroll his children in a white school last fall.

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Eighteen Negro colleges have been given full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The United Press called it a "precedent shattering action." More than 1,000 white delegates from 13 Southern states voted for it—with only a few dissenters shouting "no" from the floor.

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In **Columbus, Ga., 33** ministers have signed a manifesto calling for obedience to the law and condemning race hatred. The manifesto is the same as the one signed earlier by 80 ministers in Atlanta.

The Columbus group includes two Jewish rabbis, 15 Methodists, 5 Presbyterians, 3 Assembly of God ministers, 3 Baptists, and 1 each from the Church of God, Nazarene, Congregational Christian, Lutheran and Protestant Episcopal.

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The City Council of Durham, N. C. recently approved the creation of a biracial Human Relations Committee to "widen the avenues of communication" between Negro and white people in that city.

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In Rock Hill, S. C., the Star Transit Company went out of business because of loss of revenue. The Negro citizens of the community quit riding the buses last summer after a driver ordered a young Negro woman out of a seat behind a white woman, to which the white woman had invited her. But company officials repeatedly refused to negotiate on grievances with Negro citizens.

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At **Memphis, Tenn.,** a suit aimed at desegregating the city buses was heard by a three-judge Federal District Court. The action contests the validity of a Tennessee statute requiring separation of the races on city buses and streetcars.

In **Shreveport, La.,** a petition was filed in Federal Court for an injunction to block enforcement of trolly segregation laws. The action was taken by three ministers and five other persons who challenged the law in a ride across the city last summer.

A ministers' delegation has asked the St. Petersburg, Fla., city Council to abandon segregated seating on the buses there.

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Koinonia Farm, the embattled Christian-pacifist interracial community in Georgia, is apparently weathering the attacks and boycotts of the segregationists in that state and will survive. This encouraging news comes in a year-end report from the founder and director, The Rev. Clarence L. Jordan.

Jordan said that in the past year 2,000 people across the country have signed pledges of $50 each in the community's "Christian Brotherhood Insurance Plan." This plan was set up after violent attacks brought cancellation of the community's insurance.

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The board of control of Allen University at Columbia, S. C., has rejected an ultimatum from the State Board of Education that it fire three of its professors, two of them white.

The three are Dr. John G. Rideout, Dr. Edwin Hoffman, and Dr. Forest O. Wiggins. The State Board has been trying to force their dismissal by decertifying the university, which is owned and operated by the A.M.E. Church. State de-certification means none of its graduates can teach in the South Carolina schools.

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In Gaffney, S. C., five white men, all members of the Ku Klux Klan, have been arrested and charged with the November dynamiting of the home of Dr. and Mrs. James H. Sanders. The dynamiting occurred after the publication of an article by Mrs. Sanders favoring gradual integration, in the booklet, **South Carolinians Speak.**

'We Dare Not Find Excuses'

"The greatness of America rests on the oft-repeated truth that on this soil alone a country was created and a government formed and based upon the ideals of the Judaeo-Christian tradition . . . . We must admit that in our attitude towards and treatment of the Negro we have fallen short of our spiritual ideal. But we dare not find excuses for our own failures by seeking to tarnish the ideal . . . . Let us, then, seek to scale the heights of true brotherhood that beckon us. Let us use the spur of our faith to goad us on . . . ."

From an article in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution by RABBI JACOB M. ROTHSCHILD, of The Temple, Atlanta.

Youth Acts

(Continued from Page 1.)

lege, which is a Baptist institution. They had attended a few services at the white church but had transferred to a Negro church because of the hostility of some of the townspeople.

The college's white students and professors, who also attend the town church, took the issue to the congregation.

Everyone knew the issue involved more than two foreign students. In announcing the meeting at which the church was to vote on whether to admit the pair, the pastor said:

"Let the issue be clear in your mind. If the resolution is passed, Negroes will have the right to be members of the Georgetown Baptist Church." It passed —237 to 29.

"We've Been Down This Road Before"

A Southern historian, currently doing research into newspapers of the Confederate period, has found recently that he does not have to change his mental gears much when he transfers from the Southern papers of 1957 to those of 1861.

Dr. Bell Irvin Wiley, history professor at Emory University, said in a press interview that the more he studies the 1850's and the 1860's the more he is impressed by the close parallel between this and the present period.

"The same recriminations, the same name-calling and irresponsible statements by politicians and distortions of the truth," he said, and added:

"The position of the South in the 1850's and the early 60's was that of being out of line with the rest of the world in clinging to the wrongful and outmoded institution of slavery. Now the South finds itself out of step with the rest of the Christian world in clinging to legal segregation based on race.

"In both instances the reaction of the South to the increasing hostility of the world was the same—a tendency to substitute emotion for reason and to draw back into a shell while the rest of the world went on to greater achievement in almost all areas of endeavor. We have been down this road before."